

**What is Claimed is:**

1. A method for facilitating a relocation comprising the steps of:

providing a relocation database having stored performance data for a plurality of relocation service providers, said stored performance data including cost and quality,

receiving user data from a user including at least one selected service and user preferences for each said selected service, and

providing at least one service provider initial recommendation to said user for each said selected service, each said initial recommendation designating a service provider and including an estimated cost for said service provider and an estimated probability of said service provider successfully fulfilling said user preferences.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving modified user preferences in response to said initial recommendation from said user, and

providing at least one service provider final recommendation to said user for each said selected service, each said final recommendation designating a service provider and including an estimated cost for said service provider and an estimated probability of said service provider successfully fulfilling said user preferences.

3. The method of Claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

receiving service provider new performance data  
from said user after completion of each said selected  
5 service,

combining said new performance data with said  
stored performance data to refine said stored performance  
data and to reduce dispersion of said stored performance  
data.

4. The method of Claim 3 further comprising the  
step of providing rewards to said user in response to  
receiving said new performance data.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said estimated  
probability is the product of a probability of writing a  
contract with one said service provider and a probability  
of executing said contract.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein:

said stored performance data includes quoted  
performance data and actual performance data for each  
said service provider,

5 said probability of writing a contract for a  
selected service is the probability that said quoted  
performance data for at least one said service provider  
fulfills each of said user preferences for said selected  
service, and

10 said probability of executing said contract is  
the probability that a said service provider having  
quoted performance data that fulfills each of said user  
preferences for said selected service will fulfill each  
of said user preferences for said selected service.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said selected  
service is selected from a group of services including  
home selling assistance, home buying assistance, home  
mortgage assistance, personal property shipping

5 assistance, temporary living assistance, and hookup and disconnect services.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of providing at least one service provider initial recommendation includes the substeps of:

5 comparing said user preferences to said stored performance data for each service provider for each said selected service, and

10 selecting at least one said service provider with stored performance data that most closely fulfills said user preferences at the lowest said cost and highest said quality for each said selected service.

9. A method for facilitating a relocation comprising the steps of:

5 providing a relocation database having stored performance data for a plurality of relocation service providers, said stored performance data including quoted performance data and actual performance data for each said service provider

10 receiving user data from a user including at least one selected service and user preferences for each said selected service, said selected service being selected from a group of services including home selling assistance, home buying assistance, home mortgage assistance, personal property shipping assistance, temporary living assistance, and hookup and disconnect  
15 services,

providing at least one service provider initial recommendation to said user for each said selected service including comparing said user preferences to said stored performance data for each service provider for  
20 each said selected service and selecting as a selected service provider at least one said service provider with

stored performance data that most closely fulfills said  
 user preferences at the lowest said cost and highest said  
 quality for each said selected service, each said initial  
 25 recommendation designating said selected service provider  
 and including an estimated cost for said selected service  
 provider and an estimated probability of said selected  
 service provider successfully fulfilling said user  
 preferences, said estimated probability being the product  
 30 of a probability of writing a contract with one said  
 service provider and a probability of executing said  
 contract, said probability of writing a contract for a  
 selected service being the probability that said quoted  
 performance data for at least one said service provider  
 35 fulfills each of said user preferences for said selected  
 service, said probability of executing said contract  
 being the probability that a said service provider having  
 quoted performance data that fulfills each of said user  
 preferences for said selected service will fulfill each  
 40 of said user preferences for said selected service,  
     receiving modified user preferences in response  
 to said initial recommendation from said user, and  
     providing at least one service provider final  
 recommendation to said user for each said selected  
 45 service, each said final recommendation designating a  
 service provider and including an estimated cost for said  
 service provider and an estimated probability of said  
 service provider successfully fulfilling said user  
 preferences,  
 50      receiving service provider new performance data  
 from said user after completion of each said selected  
 service,  
     combining said new performance data with said  
 stored performance data to refine said stored performance

55 data and to reduce dispersion of said stored performance data, and

providing rewards to said user in response to receiving said new performance data.

10. Apparatus for facilitating relocation comprising:

a data storage device with a database having stored performance data for a plurality of relocation

5 service providers,

an input device,

an output device, and

a processor connected to said data storage device, said input device and said output device, and  
10 operable to receive at least one selected service and user preferences for said selected service from said input device, said processor being operable to access said stored performance data to match said stored performance data to said user preferences and calculate a  
15 service provider recommendation therefrom, and said processor being operable to calculate a probability of success of provision of said selected service and to transmit said service provider recommendation and said probability to said output device.

11. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said stored performance data includes quoted performance data and actual performance data for said service providers.

12. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said processor is operable to calculate said probability of success as the product of a probability of writing a contract and a probability of executing said  
5 contract.

13. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 12  
wherein:

said probability of writing a contract is the  
probability that said quoted performance data for at  
5 least one said service provider fulfills each of said  
user preferences for said selected service, and

said probability of executing said contract is  
the probability that a said service provider having  
quoted performance data that fulfills each of said user  
10 preferences for said selected service will fulfill each  
of said user preferences for said selected service.

14. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11  
wherein said processor is operable to receive new  
performance data for said service providers from said  
input device and to combine said new performance data  
5 with said actual performance data to refine said actual  
performance data and to reduce dispersion.

15. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11  
wherein said processor is operable to match said quoted  
performance data to said user preferences and select, as  
said service provider recommendation, at least one said  
5 service provider with quoted performance data that most  
closely fulfills said user preferences at the lowest cost  
and highest quality for each said selected service.

16. Apparatus for facilitating relocation  
comprising:

a data storage device with a database having  
stored performance data for a plurality of relocation  
5 service providers, said stored performance data including  
quoted performance data and actual performance data for  
said service providers,

an input device,

an output device, and

10 a processor connected to said data storage  
device, said input device and said output device, and  
operable to receive at least one selected service and  
user preferences for said selected service from said  
input device, said processor being operable to access  
15 said stored performance data to match said stored  
performance data to said user preferences and calculate a  
service provider recommendation therefrom,

said processor being operable to match said  
quoted performance data to said user preferences and to  
20 select, as said service provider recommendation, at least  
one said service provider with quoted performance data  
that most closely fulfills said user preferences at the  
lowest cost and highest quality for each said selected  
service,

25 said processor being operable to calculate a  
probability of success of provision of said selected  
service with said probability of success being the  
product of a probability of writing a contract and a  
probability of executing said contract,

30 said probability of writing a contract being  
the probability that said quoted performance data for at  
least one said service provider fulfills each of said  
user preferences for said selected service, and

said probability of executing said contract  
35 being the probability that a said service provider having  
quoted performance data that fulfills each of said user  
preferences for said selected service will fulfill each  
of said user preferences for said selected service,

said processor being operable to transmit said  
40 service provider recommendation and said probability to  
said output device, and

said processor being operable to receive new  
performance data for said service providers from said  
input device and to combine said new performance data  
45 with said actual performance data to refine said actual  
performance data and to reduce dispersion.